



Bingo caller Roy Kelly celebrates his birthday at the Alhambra Casino

Bingo is a weekend institution in Aruba, and the Saturday afternoon games in Cleo's Sport Lounge at the Alhambra Casino and Shopping Mall has a loyal following of natives and tourists. It could be they are all trying to win the progressive bingo pot of over \$60,000, but most will tell you it is the lively style of host Roy Kelly that keeps them coming back.

Roy was celebrating his birthday this past Saturday, July 2, and the Cleo's and the casino were filled to overflowing with players and well-wishers. A table set up with a creative bingo themed birthday cake soon filled with presents, and it was handshakes plus many hugs and kisses of congratulations for Roy the entire afternoon.

Roy had some special surprises for the hundreds that filled Cleo's and the casino to join the special birthday game. He introduced his good friends from Yonkers, New York, Lino and Lina Ferrari, island visitors every year for the last thirty-two years. Lino and Lina own a timeshare at the Aruba Beach Club, and Lino claims he has traveled all over the world, but Aruba is his "home away from home." Every Saturday afternoon during their stay, you will find them at the Alhambra Casino for the bingo, and to share an afternoon with "their Paisano, Roy." Lino and Lina have just been named Ambassadors of Goodwill by the Aruba government and awarded a framed certificate by the Aruba Tourism Authority.

Roy had a special treat for the hundreds that came to share the day with him, no single birthday cake would be big enough for all the players attending that day, but aside from the usual snacks and drinks, each bingo junkie received a cupcake with Roy's signature bingo number I-22. I-22 was also declared the powerball number for the day, so if anyone won a game with twenty-two, their prize would have been doubled.

Twenty-two was the winning number for the progressive bingo, but well after fifty calls, so no big jackpot winner on Saturday, and ironically, no double prize, as it is not applicable to the progressive game, but bingo regular Millie went home 100 florins richer thanks to twenty-two.

Why is I-22 so special? This is a question Roy is asked over and over, and the reason is because Roy is one of a pair of twins. He and his brother George were always known as "Roy and Joy" while growing up, and that is why his particular affinity for the number twenty-two.

Congratulations Roy from the casino and all the players that come to here your entertaining repartee, may you continue to call the numbers for many more years!